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Letter dated 18 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the outcome of the Somali presidential elections, issued on 14 October 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dirk Jan **van den Berg**
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom
of the Netherlands to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 18 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the outcome of the Somali presidential elections issued on 14 October 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union is pleased that the election of the President of the Federation of Somalia has come to a successful conclusion on 10 October 2004 in Nairobi, Kenya. The election confirms the Somali commitment to overcome the political vacuum that lasted for more than a decade and to bring the Somali National Reconciliation Conference to a successful conclusion. The election of the President is a milestone in the peace and reconciliation process, paving the way for the establishment of a Transitional Federal Government.

The European Union congratulates the new Somali President, Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed, on his election. Furthermore, the European Union recognizes the important role played by Somali leaders in the Transitional Federal Assembly in safeguarding the democratic principles of the election process.

The European Union will continue to support the peace and reconciliation process and the transition to a federal State in Somalia. Furthermore, the European Union stands ready to assist a Transitional Federal Government in accordance with the arrangements to be agreed between such a government and the international community.

The candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Croatia,* the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the EFTA countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

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* Croatia continues to be part of the stabilization and association process.